

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (Canceled).

10. (New) An optical glass having a refractive index (n_d) of 1.57 to 1.67, an Abbe's number (v_d) of 55 to 65 and a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 550°C or lower and having a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

11. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 10, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 540°C or lower.

12. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 10, which comprises B_2O_3 , SiO_2 , Li_2O , CaO , ZnO and La_2O_3 .

13. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 10, which comprises, by mol%, 22 to 40 % of B_2O_3 , 12 to 40 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 20 % of Li_2O , 5 to 15 % of CaO , 2 to 14 % of ZnO , 0.5 to 4 % of La_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Gd_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Y_2O_3 , the total content of La_2O_3 , Gd_2O_3 and Y_2O_3 being at least 1 %, 0 to 5 % of Al_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 5 % of BaO , the total content of the above components being more than 96 %.

14. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 11, which comprises, by mol%, 22 to 40 % of B_2O_3 , 12 to 40 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 20 % of Li_2O , 5 to 15 % of CaO , 2 to 14 % of ZnO , 0.5 to 4 % of La_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Gd_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Y_2O_3 , the total content of La_2O_3 , Gd_2O_3 and Y_2O_3 being at least 1 %, 0 to 5 % of Al_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 5 % of BaO , the total content of the above components being more than 96 %.

15. (New) An optical glass consisting of, by mol%, 22 to 40 % of B_2O_3 , 12 to 40 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 20 % of Li_2O , 5 to 15 % of CaO , 2 to 14 % of ZnO , 0.5 to 4 % of La_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of

Gd₂O₃, 0 to 3 % of Y₂O₃, the total content of La₂O₃, Gd₂O₃ and Y₂O₃ being at least 1 %, 0 to 5 % of Al₂O₃, 0 to 3 % of ZrO₂ and 0 % of BaO, the total content of the above components being more than 96 %, and having a refractive index (nd) of 1.57 to 1.67 and an Abbe's number (vd) of 55 to 65.

16. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which comprises a refining agent.

17. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 550°C or lower and has a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

18. (New) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 540°C or lower and has a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

19. (New) A press-molding preform, which is made of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15.

20. (New) An optical element made of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15.

21. (New) A process for producing a preform for press-molding, which comprises separating a predetermined amount of a molten glass gob from a molten glass flow of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15, and forming the gob into a glass preform.

22. (New) A process for producing an optical element, which comprises heating, softening and press-molding the preform recited in claim 19.

23. (New) A process for producing an optical element, which comprises heating, softening and press-molding a preform obtained by the process recited in claim 21.